



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### BOARD NOTES

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#### Volume 13, No. 2 Report of the April 6-7, 2005, Regular Meeting

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##### ***BOARD CONCERNED ABOUT LEVEL OF PRESCHOOL FUNDING***

At the April Kentucky Board of Education meeting, Curriculum Committee Chair Dorie Combs brought forward a motion to approve the preschool funding rates for 2005-2006 with continual, deep regret. The motion was worded in this fashion because less state funding is being provided per child due to an increased number of eligible children. In fact, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff pointed out that the 2005-2006 rate of \$2,150 for at-risk students is lower than the rate of \$2,285 that was available at the inception of the program in 1992-1993. It was emphasized that the funding is totally inadequate given that the preschool program is a proven, research-based, effective program.

KDE staff also pointed out increased pressures on the state-funded preschool programs that decreasing state dollars will cause as follows:

- Districts are serving a larger number of children with disabilities.
- The number of eligible children with limited English proficiency (LEP) is increasing.
- Districts are increasingly using general funds to operate the preschool program. According to the June 30, 2004, Preschool Program Report, districts contributed \$23.5 million dollars to the preschool program.
- Districts must hire certified teachers and recruit certified teachers as vacancies occur.
- Professional development, training and technical assistance will be necessary as programs implement the *Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, Continuous Assessment and Quality Self-Study Guides*.



- Transportation costs are straining district budgets.

As a result of the preschool rates discussion and as part of the motion to approve the rates, the Board will be pursuing a conversation with the appropriate legislative committees about the seriousness of the situation.

For more information on this topic, contact Kim Townley at (502) 564-8341 or via email at [ktownley@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:ktownley@kde.state.ky.us).

### ***PARAMETERS FOR CATS RFP DISCUSSED***

At its April meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education was briefed on the key questions that must be answered in order to set the parameters that will guide Kentucky Department of Education staff in crafting the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit bids for a testing company to work on modifications to the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) that would be implemented in 2007. The Board began the discussion by considering the following values and priorities for the modified CATS program:

- Respects the developmental needs of children
- Maintains a valid and reliable program that is credible with educators, public, stakeholders
- Has tests that maintain strong support for instruction
  - Content standards alignment
  - Higher-order thinking skills through constructed response items
  - Basic skills tested
  - More released items for instructional and student accountability purposes
- Meets federal testing requirements of reading and mathematics annually and science per grade span
- Develops a longitudinal scale for reading and mathematics
- Maintains involvement of Kentucky teachers
- Improves score reporting – more student information and less time
- Stays within a reasonable total testing time
- Stays within budget
- Merges curriculum, instruction and assessment into a seamless system

Due to time constraints and the critical importance of this topic, the Board agreed to continue its discussion of the CATS RFP parameters at its May 17-18 annual retreat at Kentucky Dam Village State Park. The retreat discussion will focus on answering the following questions:

- Does the KBE wish to expand the purpose of CATS beyond school accountability to include additional student-based measures?
- Would the KBE approve a different model of core content coverage moving from a 100% per year to a model that would allow more flexibility? (a. 100%-85% or b. one or two years)

- Does the KBE wish to consider a change to the number of on-demand writing prompts or how we assess on-demand writing?
- Does the KBE prefer that the KCCT test design include a core of common items to provide additional student level results and matrix items for coverage of core content, equating and pretesting?
- Does the KBE wish to continue emphasizing higher order skills by assigning greater weight to open-response items?
- Does the KBE wish the state to initiate pilot studies to develop and/or identify assessment approaches in Arts and Humanities and Practical Living/Vocational Studies that will address what students do as well as what they know in these areas?
- Does the KBE wish staff to include in the RFP a predictive measure of college success?

For more information on this topic, contact Bill Insko or Rhonda Sims at (502) 564-2256 or via email at [binsko@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:binsko@kde.state.ky.us) or [rsims@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:rsims@kde.state.ky.us).

***BOARD CONSIDERS AMENDMENTS TO ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS TO ALIGN THE SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION DEADLINE TO MATCH EARLIER SCORE RELEASES AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FLEXIBILITY***

Four proposals that would require amendments to 703 KAR 5:001, Assessment and accountability definitions; 703 KAR 5:020, The formula for determining school accountability; and 703 KAR 5:130, School district accountability were reviewed at the Assessment Committee's April meeting. All four proposals would impact Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations.

The four proposals were:

- Alignment of the school reconfiguration notice deadline to coincide with earlier score releases for both CATS and *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB). The notification deadline would be moved from September 30 of the year in which reconfiguration occurs to June 30.
- Multi-year averaging in participation rate calculations. This would allow the number of years of data for determining participation rate to vary from school to school since an average of one, two or three years of data would be used to reach the required 95%.
- Use of a rolling average to calculate Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for reading and mathematics. If all students and each student subpopulation of sufficient size meet their AMOs for reading and mathematics, only current year data would be used. For each student group failing to meet an AMO on current

year data, the AMO would be based on two years of data. Moreover, if a student group fails to meet an AMO based on two years of data, the AMO would be based on three years of data.

- Attendance rate used as the other academic indicator at the elementary and middle school levels rather than the prior year accountability index. Staff proposed that to be successful on the other academic indicator at the elementary and middle school levels, a school and district would need to have an attendance rate at or above 90% or have demonstrated improvement from the previous year of at least one-tenth (0.1) of one percent. It was pointed out that using target attendance rates would be more comparable to graduation rate, the other academic indicator used at the high school level, and that it would eliminate the negative impact of schools knowing ahead of time that they cannot reach AYP since it is now based on the prior year accountability index data.

The Assessment Committee was supportive of the first three proposals explained above. However, staff was asked to bring forward other options to consider for an alternative to the other academic indicator that would relate to improving academic performance.

Final approval of any amendments to the assessment regulations will occur at the June Board meeting. The amendments on multi-year averaging in participation rate calculations, rolling average when calculating AMOs and any change to the other academic indicator will also require federal approval.

For more information on this topic, contact Bill Insko or Rhonda Sims at (502) 564-2256 or via email at [binsko@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:binsko@kde.state.ky.us) or [rsims@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:rsims@kde.state.ky.us).

***OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT ITS APRIL 6-7, 2005, MEETING WERE:***

- Minutes from the February 2-3, 2005, regular meeting
- Commissioner of Education's original decision of 249 students in the Jackson Independent vs. Breathitt County nonresident student appeal
- Waivers of 703 KAR 5:020, affecting grade configurations from Bath and Meade Counties
- 2004-05 Local district tax rates levied
- District facility plans for Bath, Bell, Menifee, Muhlenberg, Pendleton and Perry Counties and Caverna, Covington and Harlan Independents
- District facility plan amendments for Larue, Meade and Warren Counties
- 2004-05 Local district working budgets
- 702 KAR 6:100, Appeal procedures for school and community nutrition programs (Final)
- 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage High School Interscholastic Athletics and Revisions in the KHSAA Constitution, Bylaws and Due Process Procedure (Final)
- 2004 Report, 2004 Exceptions and 2006 Plan required by 702 KAR 1:115, Annual in-service training of district board members

- Statement of Consideration for 704 KAR 3:035, Annual Professional Development Plan
- David Webb's travel to the Education Commission of the States (ECS) conference on July 12-15 in Denver, Colorado and any subsequent travel as an ECS Commissioner

***OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED AT THE APRIL MEETING WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:***

- Consideration of Kentucky's Core Content for Assessment
- Update on the Implementation Plan as it relates to the KSB and KSD center-based instructional programs; lessons learned from the Hardin and Johnson County Schools' presentations in February on closing the special education achievement gap; and major findings, issues, barriers and challenges around closing the achievement gap for students with disabilities
- Annual Report from the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC)
- Report on the CATS performance for students in A2-A6 programs
- 702 KAR 5:080, Bus drivers' qualifications, responsibilities and training
- Report on 2005 elementary and secondary education legislation and the biennial budget

***KBE MEETING DATES 2005***

<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
May 17-18, 2005	KBE retreat and preliminary budget discussion	Kentucky Dam Village State Park, Gilbertsville, KY
June 8-9, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2005	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 14, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 5-6, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 2, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7-8, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort

## ***KBE MEETING DATES 2006***

<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
January 4, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 1-2, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
March 8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 5-6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 10-11, 2006	KBE retreat and strategic plan discussion	*TBD
June 7-8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
July 5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2006	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 1, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6-7, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort

\*TBD – To be determined

For more information on the meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via email at [mmiller@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:mmiller@kde.state.ky.us) or Susan Palmer at 502-564-3141 or via email at [spalmer@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:spalmer@kde.state.ky.us).

*The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the April 6-7, 2005, regular meeting conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Advisor at (502) 564-3141.*

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